

POLITICAL CONSTRAINT

State Budget Deficits & Federal Funding Cuts

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**Backlash on DEI
Disincentivizes Equity Work**

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Federal Deregulation & Rollbacks

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**Lack of Trust in Public
Institutions Impacts
Political Efficacy**

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**Political Partisanship,
Cultural Divides, &
Socioeconomic Tension**

VALUE

Racial & Social Equity

Transform the institutions and systems that harm marginalized communities.

VALUE

Community Leadership

Share power. Invest in community voices and defer to local ownership.

VALUE

Sustainable and Intersectional Solutions

Tackle root causes with long-term, cross-issue strategies.

VALUE

Transparency & Accountability

Build trust through openness, accountability,
and shared governance.

VALUE

Respectful Participation

Foster collaboration with cultural sensitivity, patience, and mutual respect.

PROCESS

Multi-Cultural Awareness, Sensitivity, Competence, and Language Accessibility in Community Engagement

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has expanded language access for pollution permit decisions by providing interpreters at public meetings and meeting materials in multiple languages.

PROCESS

Equitable Payment, Recognition, and Compensation for Community Engagement

Washington State's S.B. 5793 directs state agencies to compensate individuals who participate in state-hosted workgroups and have been historically excluded from policy discussions.

PROCESS

Make Public Funds More Accessible To Under-Resourced Communities

West Virginia's H.B. 4479 has established a commission to help small coal towns secure grants and match funds, with a focus on providing vocational and entrepreneurial training to displaced miners for new careers.

PROCESS

Establish Community-Driven Decision-Making and Collaborative Stakeholder Structures

California's A.B. 2722 has created the Transformative Climate Communities program, empowering the most pollution-burdened communities to design and implement tailored climate projects with health, economic, and emission-reduction benefits. The bill requires a Collaborative Stakeholder Structure to ensure shared decision-making between local government and community partners.

OUTCOME

Require Multi-Sector Outcomes in Disadvantaged Communities, Beyond the Primary Intent of the Policy

Maryland's Clean Energy Jobs Act has raised renewable energy targets, created green jobs through Project Labor Agreements and grants, and dedicated \$7 million to small business and minority-, women-, and veteran-owned clean energy businesses.

OUTCOME

Set An Investment and Benefits Target for Disadvantaged Communities

Washington's Climate Commitment Act and Virginia's H.B. 1526 both establish target investment goals that would direct a set percentage of funds to overburdened communities, economically disadvantaged communities, and tribal communities.

OUTCOME

Use Public Funds to Expand Community-Owned Assets

North Carolina's H.B. 589 requires Duke Energy to offer community solar in North Carolina, allowing residents to co-own or subscribe to shared solar energy facilities.

EVALUATION

Embed An Equity Lens in Data Collection

Florida's H.B. 7019 has established funds for community resilience planning to help local governments assess how projects assist financially disadvantaged communities.

EVALUATION

Embed a Root-Cause Analysis in Evaluation

Based on S.B. 21-181, the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and the Health Equity Commission are required to produce a report that assesses systemic inequities in social determinants of health, such as racial and ethnic health disparities.

EVALUATION

Integrate Equity Impact Assessments

Massachusetts's Executive Order (EO) No. 612 requires all Executive Department agencies to conduct ongoing equity assessments of existing and proposed policies, programs, and decisions.

EVALUATION

Track Real-Time Impact of Benefits for Target Communities and Use Data to Inform Future Equitable Investments

New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and California's S.B. 535 not only require climate investment targets to benefit disadvantaged communities of color, but also require the tracking of investments and benefits reporting for state compliance.